(b) whether Government propose to take up the question of repatriation of their deposits in the Kuwaiti Banks, and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) In order to mitigate the difficulties encountered by returning Indians from Kuwait, Government of India provided facility to convert Kuwaiti Dinars upto a maximum of Rs 10,000 per passport

(b) and (c) On the question of repatriation of deposits of Indians in the Kuwaiti Banks, Govt of India would be guided by UN Security Council Resolution No 674 inviting all States (countries) to collect relevant information regarding their claims and those of their nationals and corporations for restitution or financial compensation by Iraq with a view to making such arrangements as may be established in accordance with international law.

Tax Evasion by a Member of Central Board of Excise and Customs

981. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any member of the Central Board of Excise and Customs has been recently apprehended for tax evasion;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government are taking against such officers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH). (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Seizure of Heroin in Bombay

982 SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state·

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' of 4th December, 1990 regading seizure of heroin worth Rs 61 crores in Bombay on 3rd December, 1990,

(b) if so, what are the details thereof,

(c) whether any arrests have been made in this connection and whether any inquiry has since been made; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to check such incidents

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of intelligence developed by the officers of the Narcotics Control Bureau, Bombay, certain Nigerian Passengers travelling by air were intercepted in transit lounge at New International Passenger Terminal, Sahar, Bombay on three successive days viz. 30-11-90, 1-12-90 and heroin weighing 8 Kgs., 6 Kgs. and 47 Kgs, totalling of Kgs was seized in three separate cases

(c) Four persons involved in these cases were arrested and further investigations are in progress.

(d) The Government have taken various steps such as improving enforcement measures strengthening of the NCB, improving liaison with national and international agencies such as 'INTERPOL' International Narcotics Control Board, Customs Corporation Council etc. for checking these.

Balance of Payments position

983 SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what steps Government contemplate to take to improve the balance of payments position?